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FOREIGN NEWS ON APPLES

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CONTINENTAL APPLE MARKET SITUATION IN FEBRUARY a/

Germany

Only small improvement has been reported in the German market for both American and European apples since the middle of January, although arrivals of Continental fruit have been showing a decreasing tendency during that period, according to Acting Agricultural Commissioner L. V. Steere. Stocks of European apples available are still larger than usual at this time of the year, and Spanish and Italian oranges continue to offer keen competition with arrivals large and prices relatively low. The outlook for American fruit seems somewhat more favorable for March, but no great improvement appears likely in view of the apparent apathy of the market for apples in the face of the heavy competition of oranges, which will probably continue through that month.

Storage stocks of apples in the hands of German wholesale trade have declined largely during the past four weeks but will probably not be exhausted before the middle of March, even though recent warm and wet weather has greatly reduced the keeping quality and will make it necessary to put such stocks on the market in the near future. There are still about 80 apple barges lying in the River Spree in Berlin, with estimated present cargoes totaling 35 to 40 full barge loads of 100 tons each. Continental fruit now coming on the Berlin market from outside the city is originating mainly in South Germany, Holland and to a small extent in Italy. Italian supplies, however, are very limited.

The demand for American apples in recent weeks has varied with different varieties. Business has continued slow in red varieties such as Winesaps and Rome Beauties, but Newtowns and Ortleys have found ready sale. Newtowns were wholesaling at \$4.76 - \$5.24 per box, Ortleys \$5.72 - \$5.96, and Winesaps and Rome Beauties \$3.57 - \$4.05 on the Berlin market during the week of February 11. Ortleys, however, were very scarce. Dealers have been complaining recently of considerable bruising of red varieties, which partly goes to explain the low quotations.

Imports of apples into Germany during the first seven months (July to January) of the present season amounted to 6,288,000 bushels compared with 7,730,000 bushels during the same period in 1926-27. Of these imports the United States supplied only 335,000 bushels this year against over 1,000,000 bushels in 1926-27. With the exception of Holland, France and Belgium, imports from other sources were also smaller. The increase in imports from Holland, from 374,000 bushels in the first seven months of 1926-27 to 1,256,000 bushels this season, has been noteworthy. The

a/ Based on report dated February 14, brought up to date by cable to February 25.



imports of oranges into Germany during the period July to January amounted to 2,311,000 boxes against 1,889,000 boxes in 1926-27. Australian apples are expected to make their appearance in the German market soon after the beginning of April and supplies are likely to be plentiful after the middle of that month.

APPLES: Imports into Germany, July to January, 1926-27, 1927-28

Commodity and country	July - January	1927	1928	1927
	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels	Bushels
United States ..	1,040,276	335,000	169,539	105,000
Austria .....	527,146	b/ 284,072	19,395	c/ 4,114
Italy .....	1,406,815	442,000	59,083	40,000
Belgium .....	516,923	716,000	64,635	40,000
Holland .....	373,895	1,256,000	240,682	115,000
Hungary .....	344,780	b/ 368,084	2,786	c/ 2,646
Rumania .....	269,753	b/ 217,077	13,533	c/ 10,066
Yugoslavia .....	387,162	b/ 148,976	5,732	c/ 2,320
France .....	621,195	763,000	228,507	30,000
Switzerland ....	1,429,932	980,000	54,098	20,000
Czechoslovakia..	469,348	b/ 379,422	26,140	c/ 3,502
Others .....	342,952	393,369	66,022	50,000
Total .....	7,730,217	6,288,000	950,212	400,000

Source: Monatliche Nachweise über den auswärtigen Handel Deutschlands.

a/ Figures received by cable from Acting American Agricultural Commissioner L. V. Steere at Berlin. b/ July-December only; January, if any, included in "Others". c/ If any, included in "Others".

### Denmark

The Copenhagen apple market reports comparatively active demand for barreled Yorks and Ben Davis, and boxed Newtowns in recent weeks. Supplies of these varieties have been comparatively short and quality good. Offerings of other varieties of boxed apples from the United States, however, have met only a fair demand.

### Czechoslovakia

American apples have recently appeared on the market in Prague, but sales this year will not be of much consequence, as domestic apples are still available to cover requirements for some time to come.

